

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



Member Bill Nickerson assists with the 1st turn as the museum's Maine Central rail bus takes a spin on the 60' Armstrong turntable during ceremony. See comments inside



During the 2008 Night Photo Shoot our 44 ton locomotive looked on as the 25 Ton locomotive took its spin on the Armstrong turntable. See full story inside about this year's event. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

- 8/17/08 - Monthly membership meeting at Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM
- 8/3/08 - Monthly business meeting at Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM
- 7/20/08 - Monthly membership meeting at Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM
- 7/18/08 - Hartford Division Railroad Enthusiast Picnic
- 7/6/08 - Monthly business meeting at Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
PO Box 665
Williamantic, CT 06226

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The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on

Sunday, July 20, 2008 @ 7:00 PM

Please note business meeting on Sunday July 6, 2008 at the Windham Memorial Hospital at 7:00 PM. Program for July 20th will be a slide show – 50 Years of Trains – presented by Bob LaMay. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please note! If you have photos, short articles, or just want to make a comment – please forward them to: Robert A. LaMay - Editor @cermf19@comcast.net

From the Editor's Desk

Just not sure where to begin since over the past few months a lot of blood, sweat, and tears have been flowing in the Village of Columbia Junction. Many projects were in progress in preparation of the 'Turn of the Century' event which took place on June 8, 2008. I don't there was one place or blade of grass within the museum that escaped some sort of change. During all this I was called to Texas to visit family and when I returned it was like someone had turned the clock back to 1900. The Seldom heard band from Storrs were playing railroad songs and the 'Turn' ceremony went off without a hitch. A rather large crowd appeared to witness the rail bus and 25 tonner taking separate turns on the Armstrong turntable during a very hot and humid day. Kudos goes out to each and every person who had anything to do with this event. If it weren't for their positive attitude and hard work this would have never taken place. Again 'Thank you' everyone.

Parking Lot Update

By Janet Atkins
Saturday, May 10th, Janet Atkins and Mary Lou DeVivo worked on cleaning additional Summer 2008

Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville
mfgranville@charter.net
860-456-3956

Vice President Duke York
860-423-1878

Treasurer Jeff Laverty
jeffir@cshore.com
860-429-7961

Asst-Treasurer Andrew Fischer
860-343-1906

Secretary Bill Robinson
billrobinson@charter.net
860-456-4903

National Director Ray Axelrod
860-228-3197

Newsletter Editor – Robert A. LaMay- Cermf19@comcast.net
860-228-9671

Museum Website -
www.cteastrrmuseum.org

delineated plots in the parking lot near the museum. Eastern Connecticut State University students had worked during an earlier Saturday morning digging out a great deal of grass and set up work for the 10th. Lilac, forsythia, chives, bee balm, lily of the valley, and more were planted in the ground from your donations. Ground cloth and chips were also put in place. We have continued to water it through the following week in the hopes of a few days of rain.

Thank you to Adrian Atkins and Steve Malady for realigning the railroad ties, Rolf Johnson for ground cloth, and plant material from the following; Jeff and Carol Laverty, Adrian and Janet Atkins, Jack Fulton, Bob and Carol Hassett, Lisa Pane, and Laurie Best.

Riverfest was held on May 17th and in the past the parking lot had received extensive and abusive use. To protect the beautification, Adrian Atkins placed stakes and colored tape around each plot. From the looks, it has worked as things are still pretty much in place.

We are still looking for deer resistant plants and plants that would attract bees, butterflies, and birds. Please call Janet Atkins at 860-423-5930 if you have anything to donate. There is still space in the area. What was planted there a while ago has bloomed very nicely. Please

watch future Ghost Train Journals for any updates on this subject.



Morgan Steele displayed and talked about his railroad lantern collection. Here he talks about 45 samples brought to our May 2008 meeting. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Member Andy Fischer how to properly turn an Armstrong turntable. (R. A. LaMay Photo)

2008 Night Photo Shoot

By Robert A. LaMay
Once again our Night Photo Shoot went off without a hitch. It started out under some light showers and threatening skies. While it was very humid the weather improved as the evening progressed. There were better than 20 photographers from all around New England and New York. This year the lighting was a team effort being performed by, Tom Mik, Shawn McGinnis, and Mike Peverett. Tom Nanos did all the planning and the evenings set-ups went off flawlessly. Kudos goes to the members who setup the various scenes, those who make all the moves in the dark and to the crew that always put safety first. The turntable area was this year's concentration of photos and the event lasted well past midnight when the last flash was fired. Everyone walked away with some great memories of Columbia Junction.

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Our CV center cupola caboose no. 4052 is pushed by the 25T onto pit 2 track at Columbia Junction, CT. (Carolyn



Seldom Heard band performs during the 'Turn of the Century' event. (R.A. LaMay Photo



Regional Vice President, William E. Wood says a few words at the 'Turn of the Century' ceremony. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Susan Johnson reads proclamation received from State of Connecticut and presented to museum during ceremony. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Past president (L) Joseph D. Cerreto poses with current president Mark F. Granville during ceremony. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



This photo shows part of the large crowd that attended the 'Turn' ceremony. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Representing Windham, Jean de Smet says a few words during the 'Turn' ceremony. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Seems like everyone wanted to push our Armstrong turntable around that day. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



This photo shows Steve Malady and other veteran blacksmiths explaining as they demonstrated their skills near the blacksmith shop during the "Turn" event. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Our Central Vermont S4 sits on the Groton freight house siding with a couple of newly delivered boxcars. The Chaplin Station can be seen off to the right. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



One day in between projects, the electrical work was completed on the ex-P&W hi-rail truck and it was taken for a test run. Shown here passing thru the gate near Bridge St. (Robert Hassett Photo)



Members Dick Arnold and Bruce Marcus move the 25 tonner during its historic turn. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



A surprise of the evening was the special appearance of C&O railcar no. 1705, owned by Warren Riccitelli, Jr. Shown here sitting on 60' turntable bridge in front of the well lighted Columbia Junction Roundhouse. (R.A. LaMay)



This photo from the 44 tonner shows the 25 tonner being turned on the Armstrong turntable by Walt Dumas at the Columbia Junction Roundhouse. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



The museum's Maine Central rail bus sits on the 60' turntable in front of the Columbia Junction Roundhouse. Note that Central Vermont center cupola caboose sits inside on pit track no. 5. This will be the museum's next rolling stock restoration project. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



The museum's Central Vermont center cupola caboose now sits inside roundhouse waiting for its restoration. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

Special Charter at Valley

By Ryan Mack

A vintage photo charter train led by the Valley Railroad's steam engine no. 97 is being planned. A special photo freight will operate between Essex and Goodspeed with numerous photo runbys. A possible night photo shoot is also being planned (for an additional cost). The date will be Saturday November 15, 2008 from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. The cost for the day will be \$150.00. For more information and details please contact Ryan Mack at rm0463@gmail.com